

Calendar No. 1850

82D CONGRESS
2d Session

SENATE

REPORT
No. 1897

JOHN MICHAEL ANCKER RASMUSSEN

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 707]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 707) for the relief of John Michael Ancker Rasmussen, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to John Michael Ancker Rasmussen. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 34-year-old native and citizen of Denmark who last entered the United States as a visitor on July 22, 1948. His mother and sister are permanent residents of the United States. At 1 year of age the beneficiary of the bill left Denmark with his parents and went to China where his parents were assigned as missionaries.

A letter dated February 7, 1950, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Deputy Attorney General with reference to H. R. 3464, which was a bill passed by the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of the same alien, reads as follows:

FEBRUARY 7, 1950.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice with respect to the bill (H. R. 3464) for the relief of John Michael Ancker Rasmussen, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General to record the entry into the United States of John Michael Ancker Rasmussen, at San Francisco, Calif., on July 22, 1948, as a lawful admission for permanent residence. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that Mr. Rasmussen is a native and citizen of Denmark, having been born in that country on April 25, 1918. He entered the United States at the port of San Francisco, on July 22, 1948, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor for a period of 6 months. Subsequently he was granted an extension of his temporary stay until March 21, 1949. Proceedings to enforce his departure from this country were ordered held in abeyance pending consideration of the instant bill.

The alien has resided in Washington, D. C., since November 1948. He stated that in 1919 he left Denmark with his parents, who were then assigned as missionaries to China, and that, except for a short visit to Denmark in 1928, he had resided in China until he left for the United States. He claims that his departure from China was due to the Communist infiltration and that his employers there, the Kailan Coal Mining Co., paid his fare to the United States. He stated that during the summer and fall of 1946 he was employed as chief civilian investigator for the United States provost marshal, Peiping Headquarters Group, and he presented a letter of commendation, with respect to such employment, from L. C. Greenley, lieutenant colonel, CMP.

Mr. Rasmussen stated that in 1945 his father died in China and that his mother and sister arrived in the United States in September 1949, with visas for permanent residence, and are now residing in Los Angeles. He further stated that he is married and is the father of a 10-year-old son and a daughter of approximately 5 years of age. While he did not leave China until July 3, 1948, his wife and children left there in 1947, and have since resided with the wife's brother in Stockholm, Sweden. Mr. Rasmussen claims that between July 1948 and June 1949 he sent his wife approximately \$700, and that since June 1949 she and the children have been supported by his aunt and uncles, citizens of Denmark. He is presently employed at a department store, where he earns about \$55 a week. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the alien is not a person of good moral character.

The quota of Denmark, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed and a visa is not readily obtainable. The record, however, fails to present considerations justifying enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over the many other aliens abroad who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country as immigrants.

Accordingly this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours sincerely,

PEYTON FORD,
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

The bill, H. R. 3464, which was passed by the Eighty-first Congress was vetoed by the President on August 14, 1950, and the President's message reads as follows:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, RETURNING WITHOUT APPROVAL THE BILL (H. R. 3464) TO RECORD THE LAWFUL ADMISSION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE OF ALIEN JOHN MICHAEL ANCKER RASMUSSEN

To the House of Representatives.

I return herewith, without my approval, the enrolled bill (H. R. 3464) to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of alien John Michael Ancker Rasmussen.

The bill would direct the Attorney General to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of John Michael Ancker Rasmussen as of July 22, 1948.

he is otherwise admissible under the provisions of the immigration laws, upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. It would also direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The record discloses that Mr. Rasmussen is a native and citizen of Denmark, having been born in that country on April 25 1918. Coming from China, where he had resided since 1919, he entered the United States at the port of San Francisco, on July 22, 1948, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor for a period of 6 months. Although his mother and sister were subsequently admitted to this country for permanent residence, Mr. Rasmussen's wife and two minor children, who left China in 1947 now reside in Sweden with relatives. According to last information Mr. Rasmussen resides in Washington, D. C., where he is employed in a department store.

The alien was granted an extension of his temporary stay until March 21, 1949, and he should be required to depart in accordance with the terms under which he was granted admission to this country. The quota of Denmark, to which he is chargeable, is oversubscribed and an immigration visa in his case is not readily obtainable. In this respect his case is not unlike those of many other aliens who are awaiting an opportunity to come to this country for permanent residence, and the record fails to present considerations justifying the enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over such others. The enactment of this bill would undoubtedly encourage other aliens to attempt to enter the United States as visitors for a temporary period and, thereafter, seek exemption from the requirements of the immigration laws.

Accordingly, I am constrained to withhold my approval from the bill.

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

THE WHITE HOUSE, August 14, 1950.

H. R. 3464.

EIGHTY-FIRST CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AT THE SECOND SESSION, BEGUN AND HELD AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON ON TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY

AN ACT To record the lawful admission for permanent residence of alien John Michael Ancker Rasmussen

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in the administration of the immigration and naturalization laws the Attorney General is authorized and directed to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of the alien John Michael Ancker Rasmussen, of Brede, Denmark, as of the 22d of July 1948, the date on which he entered the United States temporarily as a visitor, if he is otherwise admissible under the provisions of the immigration laws upon payment of the required visa fee and head tax. Upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper quota-control officer to deduct one number from the Denmark quota for the first year such quota is available.

SAM RAYBURN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ALBEN W. BARKLEY,

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

[Endorsement on back of bill:]

I certify that this act originated in the House of Representatives.

RALPH R. ROBERTS, *Clerk.*

In the Eighty-second Congress the present bill was introduced and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives undertook an extensive investigation of the beneficiary's background and his activities in China during the war. It was ascertained that the beneficiary of the bill rendered very valuable services to the College of Chinese Studies at Peiping, China, as outlined in the following letters:

THE COLLEGE OF CHINESE STUDIES

PEIPING CHINA

THE NORTH AMERICAN COUNCIL,
New York, N. Y., July 3, 1951.Congressman BEN F. JENSEN,
House Office Building, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. JENSEN: I understand that a bill is to come up shortly regarding the acquisition of citizenship by John Rasmussen, a Dane, whom I knew well and had the pleasure of employing while I was president of the College of Chinese Studies in Peiping, China, during 1946-48.

Mr. Rasmussen had an excellent reputation in the foreign community in Peiping, and among the Chinese as well. He was custodian of the college property from the surrender of the Japanese for about a year and showed himself trustworthy and capable. I came to like and admire him greatly. He is a young man who has been denied many of the privileges of life which the average American takes for granted, yet he has made good and has overcome great obstacles. I believe him not only entirely worthy of United States citizenship, but just the type of immigrant which this country should seek more of. He will fit into our democratic institutions, support them, and do the Nation credit.

I write to urge you to do everything in your power to promote the passage of the bill for Rasmussen's citizenship. I am sure you will do so anyway, but I should like to add my little word of support.

Very sincerely yours,

HENRY C. FENN.

THE WOMEN'S GUILD

PEKING UNION CHURCH, PEKING, CHINA

LONDON MISSION,
West City, Peiping, April 25, 1947:

DEAR MR. RASMUSSEN: At the church meeting a week ago, we had presented to us by Dr. Philippe de Vargas, the story of Peiping under the Japanese, and as we listened we all realized how much we, the present congregation of Union Church owe to the group of men and women who kept Union Church to the glory of God during those years.

At the end of the address, a vote of warm appreciation was passed to the work especially of the late Rev. David Landin as pastor, and to you as church secretary, and I was instructed to write to you and to the relatives of the Rev. David Landin, telling you of this vote, and expressing our deep thankfulness for all that you have done for Union Church.

With all good wishes,
Sincerely yours,MYFANWY WOOD,
Secretary to Union Church:

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 707) should be enacted.

C